AP US History

Chapter 25 Questions

1. What was life like for African, Mexican, and Asian Americans during the Great Depression?

Life was even more difficult. Minority groups had a hard time keeping their jobs due to white people.

* There were limited jobs, white people had usually taken those jobs, and the only time they could usually find jobs were in their own communities.
* AAs had to migrate to escape the South’s hostile view of them.
* They had all experienced some type of racism whenever they tried to get a job in white communities.
* They all had never taken a normal share of money in the 1920s; when the depression hit it made things more difficult.
* It was a challenge to find jobs; white people had tried to make sure they had their own kind before them.
* Chicanos had before the GD had the same menial jobs in the West like the blacks in the region.
* Japanese people had tried to get laws that disallowed racial/ethnic discrimination; it would make getting a job easier.

1. What was life like for women during the GD?

Life was harder for feminists; they did have obstacles in getting jobs but had advantages of their own.

* There was a popular disapproval of women’s employment; it should go to men.
* Women’s employment had actually increased, about 20 percent more than before the beginning of the GD.
* Getting jobs were a challenge; unemployed men had gone into some fields like teaching, where women usually had those fields.
* Female industrial workers were more likely to be laid off or experience wage reductions.
* Nonprofessional jobs were less likely to disappear, women would take these jobs, and men usually did not want such jobs.
* Black women’s employment was 38 percent, higher than white women’s percentage, because they liked to work because of economic necessity, blacks worked out of that, but worked harder out of preference.
* Life for feminists was hard because they had lost support in the GD because of the economic hardships popping up everywhere.

1. To what extent did literature, radio, and movies play a role in American life during the GD?

It had played a major role in American life during the GD. Depression writing had started, it varied from author to author, some was about the exposes of social injustice, exposes of poverty in different areas of America, the plight of urban ghettos, the trials of workers and migrants in CA (from the Dust Bowl) (Example: *The Grapes of Wrath*, John Steinbeck), denouncing capitalism, political radicalism, etc. Depression writing was depicting the time of the Depression. Depression writing had become somewhat popular, but more popular was the radio and movies. Every family had owned a radio at this point. The radio had become a community experience; people without radios would gather to those with radios and listen. The radio had drawn parents and children together. Radio programs had varied from comedies to sporting events; also with news. The movies had a drop in attendance partly because Americans wanted to save money. Later, in the mid-1930s did Americans return to the movies and became a daily part of life because they were a less expensive entertainment option than other possibilities, and the fact that they had sound and near the end of the 1930s were in color. Movies were about becoming rich (a dream), comedies, romances, soap operas, etc. All three provided an escape to the Depression, a break from the unhappiness and uneasiness.

1. Describe and evaluate the Hoover Administration’s attempts to combat the GD.

He tried to restore public confidence and try to fix the economy.

* Voluntarism was to ask businessmen to not cut production or lay off workers; even asking for better work conditions.
* He had also tied to help the agricultural economy, the Agricultural Marketing Act (maintained farm prices) and the Hawley-Smoot Tariff (increased farm import taxes) was created.
* The Reconstruction Finance Corporation had been established to help troubled banks, railroads, and other businesses.
* He had asked General Douglas MacArthur to detain the Bonus army, instead of perhaps trying to negotiate a peaceful end.
* Evaluation: I would have to say that this administration has failed, it was not good enough to fix what had happened, perhaps a little more vigorous programs of relief might have fared better than what he currently did. Most of his programs had failed; some did not address the real problems. The attack on the Bonus army was the final straw on keeping Hoover as president.

1. What happened in the Presidential election of 1932? What happened during the “interregnum”?

The Republicans lost the election and a cold bitterness was present between the two presidents during the “interregnum”.

* What happened was that Franklin D. Roosevelt had won the election, in a landslide.
* Hoover only carried a few states, such as PA, CO, VT, MA, NH, and ME. Roosevelt had carried every other state.
* During the “interregnum”, it was a time of bitterness between Hoover and Roosevelt; Hoover had recommendations and ideas for what Roosevelt should do but he of course declined.
* During this time, banks had suddenly started to collapse and spread around the nation.
* Hoover wanted Roosevelt had wanted to be more of a conservative. Roosevelt was probably wanted to take a more powerful approach in solving the economy.